



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 10, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Office of Emergency Services, Fire Department

SUBJECT: Termination Of The Proclamation For A Local Emergency (Tea Fire)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Terminating a Local Emergency Due to the Tea Fire.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On Thursday, November 13, 2008, the Emergency Services Director for the City of Santa Barbara proclaimed a Local Emergency due to the threats posed by the Tea Fire. On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the City Council ratified the Director's proclamation.

The Tea Fire consumed approximately 1,940 acres with 153 homes destroyed in the City of Santa Barbara. As a result of the damage the County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services requested a State of Emergency. On Friday, November 14, 2008, the State Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency, which remains in effect.

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, President Bush Declared a Major Disaster for the southern California wildfires that included Santa Barbara County, which also remains in effect.

The Tea Fire caused environmental damage when approximately 67% of the Sycamore Canyon watershed was burned, that now poses a significant public health and safety risk. Staff has been working on contingency plans for flooding and debris in this watershed.

City staff continues to work with the County by reviewing plans associated with the Tea Fire area, which includes the potential for flooding and debris flow during the rainy season. City staff is aware of the potential issues in the Sycamore Canyon and lower Eastside area and will continue mitigation planning to lessen the effects of flooding and/or debris flow.

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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office